

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Quarterly

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2017

Faces of the Past V: A Calendar



**Sister Mary Mathew McDevitt,
Sister Mary Polworth,
and Sister Mary Imelda Welch**

In 1956 St. Joseph's Teachers College was started by three courageous women - Sister Mary Mathew McDevitt, Sister Mary Imelda Welch, and Sister Mary Polworth. Sister Mary Matthew led the group and became the first President. In 1960 the college was conferred by the state and the name was changed to College of St. Joseph the Provider. Sister Mary Imelda Welch became president in the fall of 1965, followed by Sister Mary Polworth in 1974.

The college grew rapidly in those early years. The campus was built; the curriculum was developed and expanded; and the profile of the staff and students became more diversified over the years. Today it is a vibrant successful institution that owes its foundation to these three women.

About the Compiler

Carolynn and her husband Bob came to Rutland 10 years ago from New Jersey, after retiring from their Information Technology careers in the New York metropolitan area. Carolynn was able to apply her career skills to the needs of the Society and create a comprehensive Finding Aid for the Societies Archives and Collections and continues to support the cataloging effort. She has served as President, Vice-President and Director on the Society's Board. Recently she worked on the preservation of two special collections – Livingston and Textiles. Carolynn has appeared in Historically Speaking programs on Workings of the Society, Textile Collection, Women's History Month 2015 and 2016, and most recently a program on a mystery painting.

Introduction

Women's primary role has been to support family and children. Many endured extreme hardship just to survive and help their families survive. Few were able to pursue anything beyond this. Women fortunate to have the means and time started to express themselves through writing and art. Sewing and handwork were also creative outlets, while at the same time serving a practical purpose. In the first half of the 19th century records show that a few women had retail shops and a few worked in local factories. As more schools opened teaching became a popular option. By the 1880s more women joined the work force, increasing the number of milliners, dressmakers, and teachers and adding occupations of hotel and boarding house proprietors, nurses and doctresses. Women's organizations formed both for serving the community and for intellectual enlightenment of the women. Now, many more women would have the opportunity to expand their world.

This is the era when many of the women in this calendar were born, thus giving them more opportunity than their mothers and grandmothers.

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Faces of the Past V: A Calendar

Compiled by Carolynn Ranftle

Women in Rutland's History

Rutland History has been written primarily about the men who settled here, started farms, fought to create a new country, and later fought to keep the country together. They were at the forefront of industry, government and business. Books were published about them and their names were frequently seen in newspapers. Photo images were often available.

On the other hand, women's history was not generally recorded, either individually or as a group. In order to find out who the women were and what they did, one has to delve into records searching for women's names. The age of the internet now makes this much easier. Still, there is little available information from the early years. Knowledge of the efforts of most women never went beyond their front door, and we will never know what their dreams and accomplishments were. Historically Speaking Programs for Women's History Month 2015 and 2016 began the quest to discover the women of Rutland's past, and the first Quarterly of 2017 was about Women Writers of Rutland, two of whom had previously not been reported at any length. The Calendar of 2018 hopes to further share the accomplishments of the women mentioned in the programs. The women selected have not specifically been featured in prior quarterlies. Most lived in the period of late 19th century into mid to late 20th century. Read about each one on their calendar page.



Andrea Mead Lawrence (1932 – 2009)

Andrea Mead was born to ski. She started at age 3 at Pico Ski Resort, owned by her parents, Bradford and Janet Mead. She skied in her first Olympics at the age of 15 and in 1951 won 10 races and was on the cover of Time magazine. She was captain of the Women's 1952 Olympic Ski Team and won gold medals in the Slalom and Grand Slalom, becoming the only American woman to win two gold medals for skiing in the same Olympics.

Following her skiing competition years, Andrea moved to Colorado with her five children and husband, and then moved to Mammoth Lakes, CA, where she was elected County Supervisor. As advocate for the preservation of the Eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains she started the Andrea Lawrence Institute for Mountains and Rivers. In 2013 a federal act named Mt. Andrea Lawrence, a 12,240 peak near Donahue Pass, in her honor.

Locally, the Andrea Mead Lawrence Lodge, home of the Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports, was opened.

JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

INCLUDE RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN YOUR ESTATE PLANS



Dr. Mary Vail Grinnell (1855-1914)

Mary Vail Grinnell was described in the 1881 Gazetteer as a “practitioner of medicine”. She was 26 with a 7 year old son. In 1880 she had moved from Danby Four Corners to Rutland where she began study with Dr. Goldsmith. Mary then studied at the Women’s Medical College in New York City and the Woman’s Medical College of Pennsylvania. She earned her license to practice Surgery, Medicine, Obstetrics and Allied Branches in 1887. Dr. Grinnell practiced most of her years at 22 ½ Merchants Row.

A grandniece describes Dr. Mary as “truly our family’s guardian angel. Often arriving from her by mail or truck were medicines, curtains, rugs, furniture, and clothes”. She also recalls stories of her great aunt wearing men’s pants on house calls made in winter storms. Dr. Grinnell died at age 59. At the time of her death she had been practicing medicine for 34 years.

FEBRUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Ash Wednesday Valentine's Day	15	16	17
18	19 President's Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

CHECK NEXT MAILING LABEL FOR DUES INFORMATION

Helen Temple Cooke (1865-1955)

Helen Temple Cooke was the granddaughter of Otis Bardwell, who had built the Bardwell House in 1852. She attended Rutland schools and then taught private school classes, at one point renting space in the Nickwackett Firehouse. In 1894 she accompanied one of her students to Wellesley, MA, to begin her studies at Dana Hall. Helen enrolled in advanced education classes at Wellesley. In 1899, Helen and Marcellus Wheeler purchased the Dana School. Helen became principal at that time, with the assistant principal being her Rutland friend, Mrs. Harriet Page, second wife of Vermont Governor Boardman Page.

In 1927 Helen became sole owner and made extensive changes to the school. She believed that "Dana Hall was founded for the purpose of educating young women to meet intelligently and happily the responsibilities which would come to them as citizens". Helen died in 1955, shortly before her 90th birthday.



MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 <small>Daylight Savings Begins</small>	12	13	14	15	16 <small>St. Patrick's Day</small>	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <small>Good Friday Passover Begins</small>	31

VISIT THE SOCIETY WEB SITE AT RUTLANDHISTORY.COM



RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK 1960

Lucy Doane (1908-2010)

Lucy Doane was born in Nahant, NH in 1908. She pursued art at Massachusetts College of Art and Netherlands Institute of History and Art.

After teaching at Keane College Lucy came to Rutland as Supervisor of Art and art teacher from 1934 – 1971. She taught young students to appreciate art and contributed significantly to high school art education. In 1968 she was revealed as the mysterious “Miss Jacqueline O’Lantern” who had tantalized the city in advance of the Halloween Parade.

Lucy started with illustrations in children’s books then shifted to landscapes and seascapes. In 1991 she was made a fellow of the Vermont Academy of Arts and Sciences. Her paintings have been widely exhibited and are part of prestigious collections including the National Gallery.

APRIL 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1

2

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4

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6

7

Easter

Passover Ends

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9

10

11

12

13

14

Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

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17

18

19

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21

Palm Sunday

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"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING" WED - 4PM; THUR - 1:30PM; FRI - 7:30PM



Dorothy F. Leonard Aldrich (1896-1938)

Dorothy Leonard Aldrich, the 5th woman to be admitted to the Vermont Bar, was born in Poultney, and attended grade school there. Her parents were Dr. Charles L. Leonard and Emma Dorsey Leonard.

Dorothy attended Troy Conference Academy (which later became Green Mountain College), graduating in 1916, and then entered Albany Law School, graduating in 1920. Dorothy was admitted to the Vermont Bar in 1922. Dorothy married Robert Aldrich in 1923. She worked in the law office of Fenton, Wing and Morse for 10 years, but did not have an active law practice of her own. At one point she was an acting municipal judge. She was a member of the Rutland County Bar Association.

Sadly, Dorothy Leonard Aldrich passed away at the young age of 42 in 1938.

MAY 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day						Armed Force's Day
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		
	Memorial Day					

PAST VIDEO PROGRAMS CAN BE VIEWED ON SOCIETY WEB SITE



THE VERMONT, 1904

Suzanne Sheldon (1872-1924)

Suzanne Sheldon, born Susan H. Sheldon, attended public schools in Rutland, and later studied in Germany. She was in the Rutland High School class of 1888 and was known at that time as Sue Sheldon.

She started her theater career as a walk-on in 1898 with British actor and Stage Manager Sir Henry Irving. Her success increased with each successive year and after being understudy to British actress, Ellen Terry, she had her first leading lady role, followed by parts in many productions in British theaters. She continued her career in America in 1903 as leading lady in a new drama set during the American Revolution. She continued to act in New York and London Theater and played a role in the 1914 British film "Kismet".

She married Henry Ainley, himself an English actor of some renown. Suzanne passed away at a relatively young age in 1924. Interestingly, theater sources list her birth as 1875, but a high school graduation year of 1888 is in line with the 1872 birth year.

JUNE 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	Flag Day	22	23
Father's Day	25	26	27	28	29	30

THERE ARE 600 RUTLAND TIDBITS ON THE SOCIETY WEB SITE



VERMONT STATE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

Mae Murray Jones (1926-2005)

Mae was born with golf in her veins. Her father, Rutland Country Club pro Jim Murray, hailed from Carnoustie, Scotland, a place steeped in golf history.

Mae won her first amateur championship at the young age of 15, and then, went on to win five consecutive championships during the war years. At age 22 she reached the finals of the Western US Amateur Championship and semi-finals of the Canadian Amateur Open and the British Amateur Open. She reached the finals of the US Women's Amateur Championship after a record 27 hole match. Renowned golfer, Bobby Jones, said it was "the greatest match, man's or woman's, that I have ever seen."

Mae was on the prestigious US Curtis Cup Team. She considered this to be the highlight of her career. From 1959-62 she won four consecutive New England championships, the last one being at the Rutland Country Club.

After her marriage to Hugh Raymond Jones, Mae continued her support of Vermont golf. She was inducted into the Vermont Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

JULY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

NO CABLE? VIEW PEGTV PROGRAMS ON YOUR COMPUTER



RUTLAND HERALD

First Lt. Grace M. Brousseau (1911-????)

Grace M. Brousseau was born in 1911, daughter of Grace and George Brousseau. She graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy and attended nursing school in New York City prior to World War II. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps at Fort Jay, NY, in 1942 and went overseas in 1944, where she served in New Guinea, Hollandia, Biak, Leyte, and Manila.

In 1945 First Lieut. Brousseau was awarded the Bronze Star for "heroic and meritorious service during the liberation of the Santo Tomas Internment Camp". She was one of the first nurses to land. In February, 1945, as part of the advance medical group she was ordered into a combat zone to provide medical care for about 3200 Americans and Allied civilians (men, women, and children) who had been interned against their will by the Japanese since early 1942 in Luzon, Philippines, outside of Manila. Through air raids, artillery and small arms fire she tended to civilians and military personnel.

Grace Brousseau returned to Rutland after the war and is listed in the 1946 directory.

AUGUST 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	Battle of Bennington Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

VISIT THE FARM MUSEUM AT THE RUTLAND FAIR

Blanche Avaline Verder (1872-1953)

Blanche, born in 1872, graduated from Rutland High School in 1891 and Middlebury College 1895. While growing up, her family lived at four different addresses on Grove Street, going from 11 to 17 to 30 and finally to 66 Grove.

Blanche taught in several high schools including Rutland, Sidney, NY, Albany, Providence RI, and Fall River, MA. In 1905-06 she did graduate studies at Oxford University, England, and in 1922 received her graduate degree from Columbia University. That same year she became Dean of Women at Kent State University in Ohio, where she spent the rest of her career. Verder Residence Hall was named after her and dedicated in 1957. Blanche also served as president of the American Association of University Women.

Blanche moved back to Rutland after she retired and lived at 40 S. Main, the Bardwell, and then back to the street where she grew up, the Green Mountain Retirement Home on Grove Street. She died at the age of 80 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery.



SEPTEMBER 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 Rosh Hashanah	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						Yom Kippur

DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE FOR THE OCTOBER SALE?



RUTLAND HERALD

Lula Mae Tye (1888-1962)

Lula Mae Tye, born in 1888 in Fairhaven, was the only child of John Tye and Anastasia Lonkey. After a move to Rutland and completion of her education, Lula was a telephone operator.

She became financial secretary of The Rutland Businessmen's Association in 1912 and then Manager of the Chamber of Commerce in 1930. She retired from the Chamber in 1951, having been a cohesive force for nearly half a century. Lula was also Assistant Secretary of the Rutland Savings & Loan Cooperative and secretary for the Rutland Railroad Traffic Association and the Rutland Development Corporation. In 1926 Lula became corresponding secretary for the Green Mountain Club and ran their office for twenty five years. A Long Trail shelter near Little Rock Pond bears her name.

Lula passed away at age of 73 and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery.

OCTOBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Halloween			

OCTOBER IS SOCIETY ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING MONTH



SMITH COLLEGE YEARBOOK 1902

Berenice R. Tuttle (1880-1973)

Berenice was born into of one Rutland's prominent families. Following her education in Rutland schools she attended and graduated from Smith College. After two years in New York City she returned to Rutland and began a lifetime of service to the community, state, and country, spanning social work, education, business, and politics. The organizations and efforts that she started, led and participated in are way too many to list here. There are close to 40 mentioned in her obituary. In 1920 she was secretary of the Republican State Convention and an alternate to the Republican National Convention.

Berenice, along with the Rutland Woman's Club, was instrumental in forming the Rutland Historical Society. Berenice is listed in *Who's Who of New England Women* and *Who's Who of American Women*.

NOVEMBER 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4 Daylight Savings Ends	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

CAN YOU MAKE AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO THE SOCIETY?



RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Viva Alice Dodge Whitney (1905-2003)

What quickly emerge from Viva Whitney's papers held by the Historical Society are her character and her perseverance. Viva took on positions that made a positive difference in the community from the time she moved to Rutland until well into her 70s. Viva was Rutland's first Recreation Director, and according to the Rutland City Annual Report, was doing a fine job. However, she was not reappointed by then mayor, Dan Healy, resulting in considerable outcry from the community.

Viva went on to become a Girl Scout Executive Director and Director of Camp Tamarack Notch. During her 17 year tenure the number of Girl Scouts tripled. Viva then became Activities Director at Beverly Manor, and at age 75 earned a BA in Gerontology. She was a delegate to the Whitehouse Conference on Aging in 1981, became a hospice counselor, and at the age of 77 was volunteer coordinator at the County Hospice, which she helped found.

Viva's creative side is revealed in the large collection of poems she wrote. Viva and her husband raised three children, having lost one child as an infant.

DECEMBER 2018

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

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Pearl Harbor Day

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Hanukkah

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Christmas Day

THE SOCIETY HAS PUBLICATIONS & GIFT MEMBERSHIPS FOR SALE